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Between the Lines

The Christian Layman's News Bulletin

152 Madison Avenue
New York City

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To Our Subscribers:

Between the Lines is a venture of faith; it is not a commercial enterprise. A business acquaintance with wide experience in the publishing business, looked over one of our first issues and said, "How can you expect to run a publication like this, printing several issues and mailing them out without a large 'pay-up' campaign on your subscriptions right from the start?" He had just read the sentence we have been using in this box, "The subscription price, $1.00 a year, may be paid at your convenience between now and February 15th."

We never felt more unbusinesslike and embarrassed in our lives, but we managed to reply, "But you see, my friend, this isn't a business, it's an idea —a spiritual challenge. We know a Christian layman's news bulletin is badly needed and we know that if we do our part, God will do His part through the thousands of Christian friends who have expressed their desire for such a Christian service." Between now and February 15th is the time for subscription pledges to be fulfilled.

Air Power and General Mitchell

Buried in out-of-the-way corners of our press was a great story. Probably only a few saw it. Only a few were supposed to see it, for if the whole nation had noticed, the veil of subterfuge would have been torn away and a story of petty jealousies, small minded bickerings, and dirty double dealing, costing the country much of its defense strength, would have stood painfully clear before us. The late General William Mitchell, who in 1926, was court martialed for his insistance on air power superiority over land and naval power, was recently completely vindicated and honored by the Senate, and posthumously raised to the grade of Major General. He had been reduced to the rank of colonel before the court martial proceedings which suspended him from his command and forfeited his pay for five years. Those who knew him always claimed that he died of a broken heart. There was not a dissenting vote in the Senate when the amendment was presented and Senator Bennett Champ Clark remarked: "If General Mitchell's advice had been followed and he had been allowed to complete his demonstration of the possibilities of the development of air power, some of the disasters which have since overcome many nations of the world might have been avoided. Instead of that, he was tried and court martialed for his patriotic efforts." Events are proving that General Mitchell was also foresighted in his attitude toward Alaska as the most strategic spot in the world.

War Aims for India

The British censorship is so tight over the white man's empires in Asia that news can seep through only with great difficulty. But when it does, significant and alarming intimations are often heard. The weak spot in the whole Allied cause is the blunt manner in which the British imperialistic ruling clique, through Winston Churchill, has been denying that any of the Roosevelt Four Freedoms or the promises of the Atlantic charter will be applied to British colonial possessions. After Roosevelt and Churchill made the rafters of the world ring with their pacts and promises for the freedom and liberation of all mankind, Indian leaders hastened to London with hope shining in their eyes. They were met with cold defiant stares and told that the war aims don't apply to India! The Burmese political leadership did the same and U Saw, their spokesman, reported that Churchill was disdainful, impolite and unfriendly. U Saw angrily left for home, but he came via America, hoping he might be able to get out from under the severe British censorship and let the world know what was happening. However no reports were heard from him until word came that he was in prison (safely in British colonial territory), charged with conspiring with the Japanese. Some reports have tried to brand him as a Quisling. If he is a Quisling, then so was George Washington. The uproar in India has become so great that many of the thousands of the imprisoned Indians were freed. They had been held without trial for protesting against India's being drained of resources for a war in which it has no rights or representation.

Let us win the war. Let us fight for freedom. But why do we allow our cause of freedom to be poisoned and disqualified? There is abundant evidence that the vast majority of the English people want the cry of freedom to be sincere and would vote quickly and unanimously for freedom of India and Burma. But a few aristocrats whose personal fortunes have been built out of plunder from Asia are still sufficiently in control to work this travesty of truth and justice. Of course India and Burma can't be freed over night, but the native leaders of those countries did not ask that. Their requests have been far more tempered and reasonable than the answers they've gotten. The alarming thing about all of this is that when the white man has fought himself poor and bled himself white to protect his Asiatic treasures from the threat of new masters, he will then find himself facing revolutionary upheavals within his own domains that, weakened by war, he'll be unable to control. In a hurricane of social hatreds and long brooding revenge he will then lose what he sacrificed his sons to hold. We do not question the necessity of destroying Japanese and Nazi militarism, but why do we not make our strength the strength of ten because our hands are clean? How can a Christian mind contemplate the blood of American youth pouring into such a picture without becoming sick at heart?

Will Someone Enlighten Us?

A hard-to-understand angle on defense is the position of the electrical industry. On one hand we are warned of power shortages that may slow up the wheels of industry in this desperate national emergency. On the other hand, certain utility companies continue to promote the use of more electricity—for example the bulb-snatcher campaign to sell more light bulbs. One large utility company ran full page ads on a blackout shade, advising customers to enjoy normal light by planning for light-tight windows. The public would like light on the subject of just how serious the power shortage threat is,—and how to fit into the conservation picture.

Protect the Home Front

Experts in child care and authorities on juvenile delinquency are warning the nation that war increases juvenile crime and all the problems of growing children. It is difficult at best to bring children up normally through war years. It is often made harder by the fact that fathers and older brothers are away at the war or off on defense jobs, leaving the entire disciplinary job on the mothers' shoulders. The war has also taken many needed leaders away from various youth organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, the Y's and church clubs. The shift of many families to new communities adds difficulties of adjustment . . . children in a strange town don't feel the same restraint as in familiar backgrounds where friends will recognize them in their mischief. The crowded defense industrial areas, where many new people have moved in over a short period of time, present the worst problems for parents. Another war difficulty with youngsters, particularly boys of adolescent years, is that they are able to earn money, often quite a lot of it, and theirs are inexperienced hands to have more money and more freedom than they are ready for. The almost immediate reaction to all these factors is an increase in juvenile delinquency, tire stealing and other youthful crimes.

What can Christian laymen do to help meet this problem? Well, the fathers who are left at home can volunteer to help with the various youth organizations; they're going to be needed. The mothers can—and must—regard their home jobs as their front line of defense. Piloting this war generation of children through difficult years is not going to be easy. It may mean staying out of certain defense work that would be interesting and pleasant to do; it may even mean foregoing a tempting remunerative defense job. But that work is for those who aren't needed on this literal home front. Mothers can help with the jobs that don't take them too much away from the supervision of their children; that still leaves plenty for them to do in volunteer work.

If women neglect this basic responsibility it will be a betrayal of all men are dying for today. Those soldiers and sailors fighting in Asia must not come back to find that the pattern of American life for which they fought so gallantly has not endured. For victory at the front will not alone underwrite the American way; it will depend even more upon the children who are growing up during these crucial years. That is the war's challenge to American women. It may not be as spectacular as wearing a chic uniform but it's more important.

Advertising

Some good may come out of the quarrel now flaming between New Deal officials and advertising champions. Naturally the priorities rulings have severely cut down the current trade in many highly advertised commodities, causing manufacturers to cancel many large advertising contracts. The advertising profession, attempting to ease the strict clamp-down on manufacturers, have made strong attacks against some of the priority rulings and have drawn blood from several New Deal bigwigs. These in turn have charged that advertising is for the most part an unnecessary element in trade, adding higher cost to living and often harmfully misrepresentative. Unfortunately for the advertisers, the government has court records of the Federal Trade Commission's injunctions against advertisers for making false claims and misleading statements concerning their products. Hundreds of America's leading firms and products have been forced to desist from false advertising campaigns. Professor Colston E. Warne of Amherst, economics authority and president of the Consumer's Union of America, summarizes the charges against the advertising profession in these hard-hitting words: "Our indictment of current advertising practice, as I see it, runs something as follows. We feel that advertising has, by its frequent abuse, (1) stressed inconsequential values; (2) brought a false perspective as to the merit of products, often bewildering rather than informing; (3) lowered the ethical standards by insincerity in its appeals; (4) corrupted and distorted the press; (5) wasted much good timber and chemicals and spoiled much landscape and radio enjoyment; (6) blocked the speedy use of correct medication; (7) created many parental problems by abominable radio programs for children; (8) turned our society into one dominated by style, fashion, "keeping up with the Jones'"; (9) retarded the growth of thrift by emphasizing immediate expenditure; (10) fostered monopoly through its large scale use by only a few financially-favored companies." Unfortunately for our friends in the advertising business, some of these charges make sense to the average citizen. And there is ample substantiation for most of them in the voluminous records of the Federal Trade Commission. The advertisers have fought back skillfully and hard, claiming that advertising has raised the standard of living by creating desire for better ways of life; that it has educated the public on new scientific developments, etc. Nathurally, ne spapers and radios, compelled by economic loyality to their advertisers, have not carried the story of this widespread and important war of words to the public. Out of the controversy there is a real hope that greater honesty in business methods will prevail.

Do You Realize That—

WAR IS having considerable effect upon the infant mortality rate in Britain and France? Statistics reported by the *Worldover Press* show that the mortality rate in Britain in 1938 was 91.1; in 1941 it was 131.5. In France, babies average from four to five pounds at birth instead of the normal seven or eight.

WAR NEEDS nerve—not nerves. We're going to have to keep that in mind during the coming months. An example of war nerves was recently exhibited in Los Angeles when citizens telephoned excitedly to report an enemy flare in the sky which many observed to be right over the Municipal Airport. It was the planet Venus in one of her brighter closer moments, being at the time just forty-six billion miles away from the earth, which in these days of glib arithmetic is pretty close.

THE PROPAGANDA magazine *En Guardia (On Guard)* published in the United States for distribution in the Latin American countries, receives very little attention there despite it's painstaking make-up. Reports reach us that in one Latin American country, the only copies to be found were located only after considerable difficulty and then were three months old. Later issues were not to be had but there were available a great many back numbers which had found no sale. However a British magazine, published for the same purpose and

Do You Realize That—

AS ALWAYS during war, church attendance is on the increase? In certain churches, recent congregations have been the largest in the history of the buildings.

HENRY FORD once more came forth with emphatic denials of anti-Semitism, charges of which have dogged him for years. Said Ford, "I am convinced that there is no greater dereliction among Jews than there is among any other class of citizens . . . I strongly urge all fellow-citizens to give no aid to any movement whose purpose is to arouse hatred against any group."

GENE TUNNEY continues to battle against forces that he claims soften fighting men. He again indicted smoking in a recent interview and threw in a few frowning remarks about ice cream and hostesses as compared with boxing gloves and skipping rope as morale-builders.

BUSINESS IS booming in some spots, sick in others. Department store sales are up 27 per cent over a year ago, in some places with an all-over average increase of 13 per cent. This is based on reports from 265 stores over the country. There was a $10,000,000 increase in fur coat sales last year . . . supposedly a year of defense and preparedness.

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Later issues were not to be had but there were available a great many back numbers which had found no sale. However a British magazine, published for the same purpose and equally attractive although costing only half as much, makes a creditable showing on almost every newsstand the first of every month.

NEGRO AMERICA is talking about the Southern University which refused to admit six Negro students to its classes although equality of educational opportunities is guaranteed by the state law. It also wonders when the War Department's investigation of the mysterious hanging of a colored soldier near a southern army camp will produce results.

"WE HAVE as many Communists occupying positions of trust in the government here in Washington as there are in the labor organizations of America, and we have done nothing about it." These were the words of Congressman Burdick of North Dakota in the House of Representatives when the legislation to minimize strikes in defense industries was under discussion. He made the point that, because there were a few wrong doers among organized labor, Congress was considering indicting 50,000,000 workers, organized and unorganized, most of whom are loyal citizens.

LINKED TOGETHER

The child in this drawing is not a delinquent child. He is most likely a normal child who has had delinquent parents. He is being judged and will be punished for actions he hardly comprehends. But nearby stand those who are really responsible for the cost and loss to society when another criminal is made. They thought it didn't matter whether there was any religion in the home or not, that it made no difference whether the child went to church school. But now in shame and despair they face the inevitable penalty of their neglect. When a child has not received a thorough grounding in the laws of right and wrong, of truth and justice, he cannot go far in modern life without a serious breakdown. Are you playing fair with your child's future?

THE JAPANESE have considered the strength of China's democratic revolution sufficient to warrant an effort to capture some of its glory for themselves. Which way the wind blows is revealed by an incident, little reported, which occurred last fall near Tokyo, when a monument was unveiled in honor of some 150 Japanese who allegedly supported the revolt of Dr. Sun Yat Sen in 1911 which overthrew the Manchu empire. Figuring in the ceremonies was a speech by Mitsuro Toyama, "patriarch" of the Black Dragon Society, a reactionary organization in Japan which did more than any other to promote war with China. This incident, together with propaganda of the same sort circulated later, shows the Nipponese rulers have felt the need of paying lip service to revolutionary sentiment in China. In reporting this curious situation the *China Weekly Review* asserts: "It is inevitable that the wholesale exposure of thousands of Japanese soldiers to the Chinese revolutionary virus is bound to take effect some time. The Japanese never had a revolution; they merely patched up their ancient feudalistic system. When the millions of Japanese soldiers now in China and elsewhere overseas finally get home with the lessons they have learned, they probably will do something about it."—*Worldover Press.*

The Cult of the Black Dragon

There is an interesting and mysterious factor behind Japanese military and political life at this moment. For some time indications have been apparent that Japanese action was dominated by a powerful, desperate group existing within the military clique in control of Japan during the past few years. It was difficult to identify such small centers of drastic action blazing up intermittently in Japanese and Asiatic affairs. But recently returned travelers from Japan report a growing realization among Japanese citizens that this "inner will and force" eminates from the famed secret cult known as The Black Dragon. This organization is made up of military men, usually of the lower ranks of commissioned officers who eagerly espouse a revolutionary interpretation of military authority. They are fantics in the extreme, emperor worshipers, honoring violence and death as an efficient and direct means of showing their loyalty to the Heaven-sent dynasty of Nippon. Many liberal statesmen have been murdered by them. The bloody army revolt centering around Tokyo's Sanyo Hotel in 1936 is reputed to have been led by them. The very nature of their society,—secret, ruthless, fanatical,—provides the extremists in the ruling military clique with a body of officers for the administration of political discipline beyond anything Hitler has ever known. The Black Dragon Society goes back into the philosophy of the Samurai, into the more extreme codes of Bushido, the philosophy of the warrior. They apparently have a firm hand in Japan now and this cautions us against expecting a quick collapse within Japan. Such a collapse could come only after a most volcanic upheaval had torn up the very soul and roots of Japan.

Why Germans Retreat

Among the explanations offered for the Nazi setback in Russia, one has been almost universally overlooked. From 1933 to 1939, according to Australian wool experts, imports of wool into Germany, with slight exceptions fell off amazingly, German trade statistics are a secret; but League of Nations figures, as far as they go, confirm this assertion. The Nazis developed *ersatz* wool, a substitute, with remarkable wear and utility, and used it extensively for uniforms. But this *Zellstoffe* (made from cellulose) had one fatal defect; its resistance to cold was low. Hence the attempt to create heat at the front by alcohol. Hence the spread of disease in army outposts. Hence sudden wholesale leaves and troop withdrawals. Hence Goebbels' new "collections" (actually confiscations) of woolen garments for the army.—*Worldover Press.*

Vitamins for Victory

The National Defense Council's Vitamins for Victory campaign has been a big success—except in one important way. The introduction of vitamin thiamin, nicotinic acid and iron to bakers' bread and the higher priced bread flours has been complete and satisfactory. But the majority of America's undernourished masses do not buy bakers' bread, and they don't buy the widly-advertised, high priced flours either. They live on the cheap, low grade flours milled at such a narrow margin of profit and under such a cut-throat competitive system that the manufacturers dare not add the vitamin blessings to these flours because the added cost would give the non-cooperating competitors a price advantage. So the more affluent citizens, who usually have a box of vitamin pills on the bathroom shelf anyway, are getting more vitamins in their bread while the 40 per cent or more of America's undernourished will continue to get along the best they can with or without Federal vitamins.

Preparations for Peace

Preparedness for peace,—that essentially is the theme of Herbert Hoover's book *America's First Crusade* (Scribners $1.25). He maintains that a workable plan for peace is as necessary as a plan for war; for peace comes with much of the same suddenness and shock as war. He advocates not merely aims and ideals but a specific outline of action ready for that hour when the nations will once again gather around a peace table. Mr. Hoover charges that the peace negotiations after the last war were undermined by secret treaties the purpose of which conflicted with the American hopes for a more just world order. He praises Woodrow Wilson's motives, plans and executive ability, pointing out that international documents are indeed scraps of paper unless they are made by men and nations who believe in them and are willing to sacrifice for them. The pro-war New York *Herald-Tribune* was caustic in its review of Mr. Hoover's book, commenting: "Mr. Hoover's attitude toward Europe as expressed in this inopportune booklet, however, is more than tactless. It suggests a 100 per cent differentiation between the 'idealism' with which Americans approach their problems and the sordid implacable selfishness of all Europeans, and especially of Englishmen."

Motorized Sleds—

The Russians are making things hard for the Nazis by their use of a heavily armed sled propelled by an airplane motor and capable of a speed of ninety miles an hour.

Anti-Union Violence

One of the most dangerous situations looming on the American horizon is the strife occasioned in the gradual shifting of labor unionism into the newly industrialized southland. The industrialists in the south (some of them recently migrated from the north, searching for docile, cheap labor) seem to be woefully unaware that unionism has come to stay, that it has penetrated practically all labor centers of the world, that it has become the accepted form of labor representation in England now for several decades, that it can no longer be completely pushed aside wherever men and women are regimented for toil in modern industry. The southern industrialists are making the dangerous mistake of setting an example of violence before the eyes of the workers in attempts to frustrate union organizers before they have succeeded in enlisting the workers. A case at hand recently occurred in Mississippi. While distributing leaflets to workers of a woolen mill, several union organizers were attacked by anti-union workers among whom was State Representative Claude Bilbo, personnel director of the mill. Three of the organizers got knife and club wounds. The union leaders anticipating trouble, state that they had requested police protection, but apparently their request was ignored. We are not championing the unions' cause. We are pointing out the stupidity of the industrialist in engaging in such examples of violence and thuggery when dealing with labor groups. It is a vicious pendulum that will certainly swing back and crack a good many heads. For years the same thing happened in the north and occasionally still does. Many times during strikes, the first violence occurs when imported hired thugs, deputized as "property guards," try to break up picket lines and intimidate workers. Such news rarely appears accurately in the daily press because a majority of the big publishers who control the news are anti-union and anti-labor themselves.

But the point *Between The Lines* wants to make is—how can we plead for Christian principals to be respected in the ranks of the mass workers over against the violent preachings of Communism when community and industrial leaders themselves inaugurate violence and class strife? There are plenty of thugs and roughnecks who crowd into the workingmen's ranks, but why do we give them such complete alibis for brutality and examples of violence?

A Forward-Looking Rural Program

The Department of Agriculture is now drawing up a very fine program for rural improvement to be begun at the close of the war. It provides for employment or financial aid for rural soldiers and sailors as they are mustered out of service as well as for farm people who have been in defense industries during the war period. It proposes a large program of rural slum clearance which will replace the shacks and shanties that many farmers live in (some reported to be no better than Chinese peasant huts). The Department of Agriculture considers that there are at least two million farm homes that must be rebuilt to bring rural housing up even to a minimum standard of decent living. In addition to better farm housing, the plan includes county hospitals, recreation centers and a comprehensive program of conservation, reclamation and irrigation. While all thoughtful citizens would approve such a plan, many are wondering if it will survive the constant and insistant opposition of reactionary elements in Congress who are now using the war emergency to fight all such humanitarian efforts on the home front.

"Good Active Hatred"

The Canadian Air Marshal William A. Bishop, while visiting New York City and appearing before different organizations, urged America to develop a "good active hatred" against the Axis peoples. He declared that we can't win this war unless we realize the Axis people all hate us, are fighting to the death against us and that we must learn this lesson of "total hate" from them or we'll not win the war. The Air Marshal may be a good soldier and learned in the arts of killing and destruction, but he is quite ignorant of history and human affairs. He doesn't know much about Germany or Italy and less about Japan. Millions in those countries despise war, abhor their own military leaders. They keep the great Axis concentration camps full. Christians in the Axis countries are as heart sick over today's world picture as we are. The Canadian Air Marshal forgets the insidious danger of becoming like unto the very things we despise in our enemies. The spiritual peril of war is as great as the material. The Air Marshal would be a more intelligent propagandist if he would urge us to fight the hated Nazis and Japanese military leaders so that the betrayed, misguided masses they have subdued might be freed to enter with us into a new world in which the Four Freedoms are realities.

A New Labor Leadership

Be prepared for more than now meets the eye in the present labor trends. First, do not conclude that because labor has agreed to suspend all strikes and submit all controversies to the War Labor Board for adjudication that a new age has dawned in labor and that the day of strikes and violent industrial conflict is over. Second, do not view any news of conciliation between the CIO and AFL as a sign that labor is becoming at last docile, repentant and cooperative. Far more significant are signs that labor organizations, long at war with each other, are trying to congeal their strength and political structures; that trend should be watched with understanding and thoroughness by Christian people. This uniting of labor's strength would have been accomplished long ago had it not been for the conflict of personal ambition within the labor movement. The bombastic, political pompoming type of leadership is gradually giving way to the activities of smart young men of good background and education who have for the most part come from working men's families and know exactly what they are after and why. This inside evolution within labor, plus the war pressure, explains much that is happening on the labor front. The period of racketeer local union leadership, which has been flagrant and odious, is also passing. The industrialists and their publicists have quite justifiably played up the criminal element in labor to deflect public sympathy from the union cause. This has been especially effective with the farmer mind. We all recognize corruption and abuses in labor practices. But have we thought what the situation will be when labor leadership is respected and efficient, and when the cause of labor is made to seem closely akin to the cause of the common citizen? Then what will be the technique of the industrial chiefs who have controlled most of our country's resourses and manipulated the nation's affairs? If labor continues to merge its strength the end of the war will see America facing a block of power unmatched in our political history. The nature of that power, its moral concepts, is one of the primary spiritual concerns of Christian America today.

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